

**Consumer Task Force**  
**Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards**  
**September 25, 2007, 10:00 am - noon**  
**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:** Jacqui Day, Sara Harrison, Michael Daschlein, Joe Longcor, Kate White, Tari Muñoz, Jill Gerrie, Laura Hall, Wendi Middleton, Suanne McBrien, Rob Curtner, Megan Bouchard, Carolyn Brown, John Jokish, Jack Vint, Mary Aplan, Marion Owen, Susan Steinke, Alison Hirschel, Sarah Slocum, Carolyn Lejuste, Colleen Widder, Bill Allen, Esther VanHammen, Gina Hanson, Jackie Tichnell

**Minutes** - July minutes were approved.

The July Executive Committee listened to the Self-Determination phone conference on Quality initiatives. Each pilot site is changing the number of consumer representatives on their Advisory Boards. Tari will draft a letter for the Task Force review that will be used to recruit more consumers for these roles.

**Office of Long-Term Care Supports and Services Update** - A brief update was provided. The DRA/MFP project manager has been posted as an internal fill only. The Systems Transformation Grant project manager should be posted soon. Jackie will follow-up with the office update.

The Office did receive approval on the Centers for Health Care Strategies grant for prepaid long-term care health plans. This will allow the State to send staff to technical assistance meetings. The Office also received approval on the intensive technical assistance grant for direct care workforce training. This is a small sum of money to enhance the existing train-the-training materials. There has not been a response on the other new grants at this time.

**Brief Project Updates/Issues/Discussions**

- Aging Grant - Wendi thanked the Task Force for their support. The State should learn of the outcome of the grant submission by October

1. In summary, this grant will start flexible spending (self-determination) for consumers who use the Older Americans Act funding. It will basically use the lessons learned from the Self-Determination in long-term care and add culture change concepts.
- Medicaid Infrastructure Grant - No news on the continuation grant. The response date from CMS is November 1. Some of the staff went to the conference in Chicago on MIG and Freedom To Work. It was noted that this was a good conference. On September 14, there was a second presentation of the benefits planner from California. At this point, Michigan wants to pursue getting its own portal and calculator. Joe is working with other agencies on this issue. And, Personal Care in the workplace was approved by CMS. The draft bulletin has been issued and the policy should be effective December 1, 2007.
  - Self-Determination on Long-Term Care - There are over 100 persons on self-determination. The other waiver sites are being trained. Tari is also working on the Operations Manual and Policy and Procedures Manual.
  - Independence Plus - this grant is ending. Currently, funds are being used to support waiver training in self-determination and person-centered planning. The Practice Guide has been revised. There was another Self-Determination Leadership Seminar in September. These are tentatively scheduled for every other month.
  - Money Follows the Person - Workgroups for the 1915(b)(c) waiver have been established. Consumer members are always welcome. The feasibility contract to determine if this is a valid concept is moving forward with Health Management Associates.
  - Quality Community Care Council - they are in the process of training the trainer on consumers as employers and AANP trainings.

**Ombudsman Advisory Group Proposal** - Alison, Susan Steinke, and Sarah Slocum presented a draft proposal to re-organize the existing

administration of the Ombudsman program. Alison provided a history of the Ombudsman program. This draft proposal was developed following several stakeholder meetings. Susan provided the basic elements of the proposal. It was noted that this proposal was not intended to eliminate either the Area Agencies on Aging or the Citizens for Better Care activities. Both of these agencies could contract with the new agency that will coordinate the new Ombudsman program. Comments on the draft may be made to Sarah Slocum. The following are consumer thoughts on the draft:

- This could fulfill the LTC Task Force recommendation of an external advocate.
- What is the opposition to this proposal?
- This will provide a narrower, defined focus for the Ombudsman and they will report to one administration.
- This creates a new consumer board where one does not currently exist. It does not mean enhanced services or more consumers. This is a capacity and funding issue.
- This will apply to nursing facilities and licensed AFCs.
- It is unknown how the Board will be appointed.

**Background Manual** - The draft manual was distributed for comments. Jack noted that, using the manual, it would be helpful to new persons, to attend a one-on-one with an existing member to help explain what the Task Force is and what it is charged with. Laura noted that the information session material should be added. Wendy noted that OSA is not mentioned in the manual which led to a comment to add a chart of all the departments and how they interact on long-term care issues.

**Consumer Introductions** - Sarah Harrison gave some personal background information to the Task Force.

**Information Session** - The Prepaid Long-Term Care Health Plan was the information session for this month. It was suggested that November be Citizens for Better Care and the Ombudsman Program proposal.

## **Other business**

- Budget issue - what legal recourse does a consumer have if the State ends services due to lack of a budget? No Medicaid payments will be made. No Medicaid applications will be processed. Essential employees will remain employed. It was noted that MSA is meeting on this issue. The Area Agencies on Aging have fund balances to carry them for a short time. Enrolled Medicaid providers do not have to accept Medicaid consumers. Nursing facilities do have a month lag in their payments (i.e., they will get paid in October for September services). Home help consumers will need to be re-entered into the system, thereby taxing an already overloaded DHS system. It was unsure how consumers will be notified of this situation and what to do if they need help.
- Bill Allen was introduced. He will be working with Rob and Jackie on the prepaid LTC health plan.
- Colleen suggested that the next meeting be held at her complex, Independence Square (between Pleasant Grove and W. Holmes). She will check with the administration to reserve the meeting room. There may be an issue of the telephone access. Jackie will send further information on this issue. Mike D. did note that the funds for supporting this group are very flexible and could pay for another personal care attendant if necessary.
- Colleen also noted that she is a part of the Self-Advocacy Network. This is a group of consumers who provide support to each other. Tammy Finn, ARC, is the contact person. 517-187-5426-x106.

Next meetings:

October 23, 2007, 10:00 – noon, Independence Square Proposed

November 27, 2007, 10:00 – noon, Michigan Association of  
Community Mental Health Boards